



COVA@30: Celebrating Three Decades of Social Transformation



Telangana Trends

Trending News, Unbiased and Unfiltered

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Hyderabad, July 20, 2025 – The city witnessed an inspiring gathering of changemakers, thought leaders, activists, and community champions at the **COVA@30 Commemoration Event**, celebrating **30 years of dedicated service through social transformation** by COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations).

Held at Hyderabad on July 20, 2025, the occasion brought together a diverse group of individuals – from grassroots volunteers to high-ranking officials – who have been part of COVA’s remarkable journey in fostering peace, equity, education, and inclusive development.

A Galaxy of Stalwarts in Attendance

The event was graced by eminent personalities from civil services, academia, and civil society including:

- **Mr. Somesh Kumar, IAS**
- **Mr. Swaranjit Sen, IPS**
- **Mr. S.A. Huda, IPS**
- **Prof. Haragopal**



THE HINDU

NGO lauded for work in violence prevention and financial inclusion

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

An event marking 30 years of the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) was organised which brought together several volunteers, partners, staff, and well-wishers from across the country.

The Reflections on Association with COVA@30 event saw video messages from collaborators across India highlighted COVA’s wide-ranging engagement on over 30 issues, from grassroot works in slums of Hyderabad to policy advocacy with multilateral institutions.

A documentary produced by Maulana Azad National Urdu University’s Mass Communication Department traced the organisation’s evolution and reach in the area of social activism.

A book, *Chronicle of CO-*

VA@30: Service Through Social Transformations, featuring reflections from 150 individuals, that include partners, associates, and volunteers, was also released.

Speakers deeply appreciated COVA’s notable work in violence prevention, education, financial inclusion and interfaith dialogue.

The organisation’s Compassionate Citizenship Programme, now part of Telangana’s school curriculum, was praised as a model for moral and civic education.

According to a media release, its research on financial inclusion, commissioned ahead of the 2013 G20 Summit in Russia, resulted in nine of its twelve recommendations being adopted by India’s Finance Ministry, five of which were integrated into the eMUDRA Scheme.

- Mr. Omer Jaleel, IAS
- Mr. Jeevan Kumar, Human Rights Forum (HRF)
- Bro. Thomas of Montfort Brothers
- Mr. Venkat Reddy, MVF
- Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Registrar, MANUU
- Prof. Ehtesham Ahmed, MANUU
- Mr. Manzoor Ghori, IMRC, USA

Many academics, professionals, former and present volunteers, and partners of COVA were present to share their reflections and celebrate the organisation's legacy.



A Journey Documented and Remembered

A special documentary produced by the **Department of Mass Communication, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)** titled *COVA@30* was screened. The film chronicled the genesis, evolution, and wide-ranging impact of COVA across local, national, and international spheres.

Additionally, a commemorative book titled “**Chronicle of COVA@30: Service Through Social Transformations**” was released. The book captures reflections from over **150 partners, volunteers, associates**, and community members, offering deep insight into COVA's grassroots and global engagements.

DECCAN Chronicle

COVA CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE IN HYD

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 20**

Hyderabad's long stretch without communal violence since 2012 was linked to early and sustained intervention in sensitive localities, said former officials and civil society groups at an event marking 30 years of the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA).

The programme on Sunday brought together former bureaucrats, academics, volunteers, and human rights activists to reflect on COVA's work in Hyderabad and beyond.

Speakers pointed to its role in violence prevention, education, financial inclusion, and multi-faith outreach, calling it a “proven model for building trust in tense areas.” Over 250 volunteers and partners were felicitated.

A documentary by the Maulana Azad National Urdu University's mass communication department and a book titled ‘Chronicle of COVA@30’ were released, tracing its engagement in nine districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and five other states, as well as national and UN-level policy contributions. COVA's 2013 study on financial inclusion, prepared for the G20 summit in Russia, led to the adoption of nine of its 12 recommendations by the Union finance ministry, five of which are now part of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), or Mudra scheme, a Central government scheme to provide loans to MSMEs in non-agriculture sector.

COVA turns thirty

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Video reflections by a range of partners from across India, showcasing their engagements with Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), from grassroots to UN, were screened on the occasion of 30th anniversary of COVA peace network here on Sunday.

Maulana Azad National Urdu University released a special documentary produced by their Department of Mass Communication on COVA@30 covering the origins, progression and the range and reach of COVA in the field of social activism, according to a press release.



Expansive Reach and Lasting Impact

The reflections showcased COVA's extensive work:

- In Hyderabad's slums, the twin cities, and 9 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Across five other Indian states – Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Manipur.
- At national, South Asian, and multilateral levels, including advocacy at UN platforms.

COVA's 30 priority causes and issues were highlighted, focusing on:

- Violence prevention
- Education and school reforms
- Financial inclusion
- Multi-faith and intra-faith peace initiatives



Compassionate Citizenship Program: A Beacon of Hope

One of COVA's most celebrated initiatives is the **Compassionate Citizenship Program**, designed to transform school education by taking students beyond textbooks into real-world civic engagement and moral development.

The **Government of Telangana's Education Department** has now formally included this initiative as part of the **co-curriculum in 3000 schools**, with a vision to eventually implement it in all **40,000 schools** in the state.



رضا کارانہ تنظیم کووا کی 30 سالہ خدمات کی ستائش

سویش کمار، عمر جلیل اور دیگر عہدیداروں کی شرکت

حیدرآباد۔ 20 جولائی (سیاست نیوز) رضا کارانہ تنظیم کووا (COVA) کے 30 سال کی تکمیل پر پرائسز، اسٹاف، پارٹنرز، عہدیداروں اور دوسروں کے ساتھ اجلاس منعقد کیا



گیا۔ سویش کمار آئی اے ایس، سورجیت سین آئی پی ایس، ایس اے حدیثی آئی پی ایس، سید عمر جلیل آئی اے ایس، پروفیسر ہری گوپال، جیون کمار، برادر تھامس، وینکٹ ریڈی اور دوسروں نے شرکت کی۔ مولانا آزادی نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی کے ڈپارٹمنٹ آف ماسک کمیونیکیشن کی جانب سے کووا کی 30 سالہ کارکردگی پر ڈاکیومنٹری تیار کی گئی۔ کووا کی سرگرمیوں پر مبنی ایک کتاب شائع کی گئی۔ تشدد کو روکنے اور اعلیٰ تعلیم کے فروغ ہمہ مذہبی، امن آئینی اور معاشی ترقی جیسے شعبہ جات میں کووا نے اہم رول ادا کیا۔ مرکزی وزارت فیمنس نے کووا کی جانب سے کی گئی اسٹیڈی پریزنتیشن 12 سفارشات میں 9 کو قبول کیا ہے۔ مقررین نے سماج کی ترقی اور خاص طور پر معاشی، مذہبی، سماجی اور تعلیمی شعبہ جات میں خدمات کو سراہا۔ اس موقع پر 250 پرائسز، اسٹاف اور عہدیداروں میں مومنٹو تقسیم کئے گئے۔ 1

Leaders and experts unanimously hailed this program as a critical need of the hour to nurture future generations of empathetic and responsible citizens.



Policy Influence at the National Level

COVA's influence on national policy was also underlined:

- The **Finance Ministry of India** adopted **9 out of 12 key recommendations** from a COVA study presented during the **G20 Summit in Russia (2013)**, titled "*Critical Review of Financial Inclusion in G20 Countries with Focus on India.*"
- Five of these were integrated into the **MUDRA Scheme**, including **EMudra**, thereby demonstrating COVA's tangible policy impact.

Faith-Based Interventions for Peace

Recognising the growing trend of religious polarisation, COVA pioneered **Multi-Faith and Intra-Faith Initiatives**. These efforts, in collaboration with faith leaders across religions, aim to:

- De-escalate religious tensions
- Promote **celebration of diverse religious festivals together**
- Discourage the **weaponisation of religion**

Such initiatives have helped build community resilience, especially in communally sensitive areas of Hyderabad, contributing to **zero incidents of violence in the city since 2012**.



Condolences and Reflections for Global Peace

The event began on a solemn note with a **condolence message** delivered by **Mr. Jeevan Kumar**, commemorating the lives lost to violence globally, particularly in **Gaza and Ukraine**. His powerful words set the tone for the day's reflections on peace, justice, and humanity.

A Tribute to Contributors

As a mark of gratitude, over **250 volunteers, staff members, academics, activists, and officials** were honoured with mementos for their outstanding contributions over the years.

The inaugural presentation of the commemorative book was done through a PowerPoint presentation by **Bro. Thomas, Secretary of COVA**, and **Ms. Aparna Adhikari, Treasurer of COVA**.

Looking Ahead: A Legacy in Motion

Every speaker acknowledged that COVA has not just worked on **issues**, but on **transforming lives**. Its journey from local neighbourhoods in Hyderabad to international advocacy platforms stands as a testament to the power of **community-driven change**.



As COVA steps into the next decade, its foundational ethos – of **compassion, equity, inclusion, and justice** – continues to guide its mission of building a better society.

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